and education, recruitment of female teachers, provision of free textbooks to girls, opening and upgradation of schools to improve access to education, involvement of women through a participatory process in the effective management of schools and, 'the Mahila Samakhya type' of interventions that help attain the objective of gender parity. The National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV) are being implemented as part of the SSA to promote universalisation of elementary education among girls belonging to the disadvantaged sections of society.

— The Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education: This scheme was launched from the 1st April 2001 to provide access to school-less habitations. The scheme also supports flexible strategies for out of school children including bridge courses, residential camps, 'drop in' centers, summer camps and remedial coaching.

— Mid-Day-Meal Scheme: The scheme was initially launched in 1995-96 with the objective of providing a boost to the efforts of universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment and retention by reducing dropouts and simultaneously impacting on the nutrition levels of students in primary classes.

— The National Literacy Mission (NLM) was set up in 1988 to impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years in a time bound manner. The aim of the NLM is to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007.

World Bank loan for engineering colleges

1820. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to release a loan for the engineering colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu would also be getting the loan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government has launched "Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP)" to improve quality of technical education with the assistance of World Bank. The total cost of the Programme for 10th Plan Period is Rs. 1,550 crore consisting of Central component of Rs. 350 crore and State component of Rs. 1200 crore.

For implementing the above Programme, the International Development Association (World Bank) have agreed to provide credit of approximately Rs. 1250 crore during the 10th Plan. The Programme has been declared effective with effect from 12th March, 2003.

The Programme is being implemented in two Cycles. In the First Cycle Six States namely Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are participating. In the Second Cycle Seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharknand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and West Bengal are participating.

The engineering Institutions from the State of Tamil Nadu are also participating in the Programme.

MASS Education Institute

† 1821. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are norms prescribed for getting approval for 'Mass Education Institute' (Jan Shikshan Sansthan).

(b) whether it is a fact that rural population is deprived of the benefits of such scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider to open such institutes in most backward districts on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The norms are as follows:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.